

## LITERARY NOTES.

There are six poets in the British House of Lords, denizens, of course, heading the list.

"Princess" is the title of the new novel which Miss McClelland—the author of "Oblivion"—about to publish through Holt & Co.

Dr. T. W. Parsons, the poet, now lives very quietly in Boston and spends his summers in Schenectady or Wayland. He is sixty-seven years old, and a man possessing still an athletic frame and a handsome face.

"Rob le Conqueror" is the title of Julie Verne's new novel, the scene of which is laid in Philadelphia. It is said that its details of American life are calculated to astonish Americans.

Mr. Edmund Gosse is preparing a lecture on "The Profession of Author" which he will give in the autumn before the Incorporated Society of Authors.

"Nord et Midi" is the title which Alphonse Daudet has given to his dramatization of his novel "Nana Roussette." The play is to conform to the novel, except in its political aspect, in the place of which the author declares he has thought of an innovation with which he is extremely well pleased.

A correspondent of "The Indianapolis Sentinel" thus quotes Miss Louisa Alcott's graphic description of a community her father once started: "It was more thoroughgoing than Brook Farm—no compromise there with degenerate humanity. The wearing of lines was their supreme doctrine; no other material for clothes was permitted. One disciple declared nudity was the chief necessity, and would have ridden his naked hobby but for the remonstrance of good Mrs. Alcott. At last this son of Adam adopted fig leaf, in shape of linen sheet, with a hole in the centre for his head to slip through. In this meagre attire he wandered away over the hills into the forest primal. He fed on berries and roots, but, alas! was I picked up and brought home insensible at the end of three days. Another disciple thought cooked food the root of all evil, and ate his potatoes, beans and pea raw. Another joyous member believed Juliet's philosophy

"What's in a name," and used to say 'd—r you' for 'God bless you,' holding that as he was known to be a man running with the milk of human kindness a curse from him was tender greeting. Still another gentleman there was who claimed the right to do just what he felt like at any given moment. Often at the midnight hour little Louis was awakened by the shrieks and howls of this aspiring soul. He would roll on the floor, making melody the while, the explanation being: 'I feel it.'

The Zanzibar Princess—the Sultan's sister—who is about to publish her memoirs gains her living in Berlin by giving lessons in Arabic.

"The London Spectator" in a delightful little paper ever de societe says: "In the present generation, Mr. Frederick Locker alone has done anything to imitate Praed successfully. Some of his verse is, indeed, charming, and all of it is composed in the true manner. Mr. Andrew Lang and Mr. Austin Dobson have both tried their hands at the difficult task. Mr. Lang, though he can write so pleasantly, has hardly enough 'go' about him. He is quaint, he is learned and ingenious, he is melodious; but his work is just too labored, just too pedantic, just too much of the study. Mr. Austin Dobson is a true poet, but tardily hits the mark. We cannot call him a greater success. With him, somehow, the suburbs are always with us. Clapham is doubtless just as tender and trim, and may be just as witty, as St. James's and Mayfair; and yet the verse that deal with the people who live in the latter alone are tolerable as verse de societe. Not that we for a moment suggest that Mr. Austin Dobson's verses have any particular local color. Our geographical allusion is solely by way of example. We only feel that, somehow, a society living, dancing, flirting, making puns, and talking politics in the widest sense is the society which must be described, and that the slightly too drowsy and thoughtful surroundings of the modern literary man are hardly the most suitable atmosphere for such verse."

Dr. Heman Dyer, of the Episcopal Church, has set forth in his "Records of an Active Life" the reminiscences of fifty years of hard work. Whittaker will publish the book, and will at the same time bring out a volume of the heretofore unprinted sermons of Charles Kingsley.

Justin McCarthy in lecturing in this country next winter will avoid all party and controversial subjects.

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